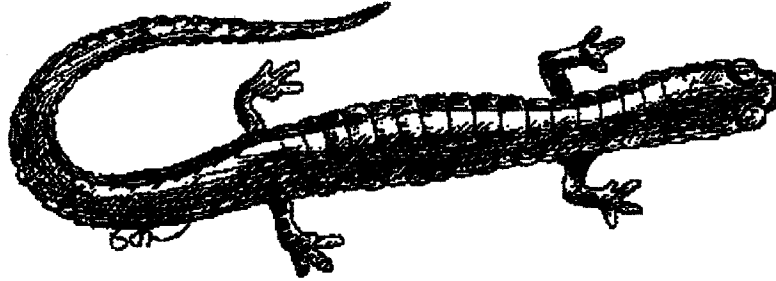


Oregon Slender Salamander

Batrachoseps wrighti
Family Plethodontidae



Global Rank: G3

State Rank: S3 (OR)

Distribution: The only amphibian endemic to Oregon, this species is found on the west slope of the Cascade Range from the Columbia River south to southern Lane County. From near sea level to around 4,700 ft. (1,430 m.) in elevation.

Description: Adult Oregon slender salamander reach around 3.5 in. (9 cm.) in total length. This long-legged, slender salamander has a black belly that is marked with large white blotches, 16 or 17 costal grooves, counting one each in axilla and groin. There are 4 1/2 to 7 1/2 costal folds between adpressed limbs. Dark brown color above, often with a reddish or yellow-brown or occasionally greenish gold stripe. In some, back color contrasts with brick-red tail.

Reproduction: Lays eggs underground or in rotting logs in spring or early summer. The egg clutch averages 6 (range 3-11), and hatch after about four months. Eggs are guarded by the females.



*Current range of the
Oregon slender salamander*

Food: Diet includes small invertebrates like springtails, mites, insect larvae and adults, spiders, snails, and earthworms.

Habits: Found under bark or moss in mature and second-growth Douglas-fir forests, as well as under rocks or logs in stands of moist hardwood forests within coniferous forest landscapes. Usually it is absent from recent clear-cuts, but it is sometimes found in talus and lava fields near the crest of the Cascades. This species can be found near the surface during fall and spring, but retreats underground in late spring and summer.

Management Implications: The species seems to be common in local areas, but is rare or absent throughout large portions of its range. It is known to occur at only a few dozen localities. The impacts of timber harvest practices on this species and its general distribution in the Cascade Mountains need to be investigated.

Important References: Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. The Peterson Field Guide Series. Houghton Mifflin Company, New York, NY; Csuti, B., A.J. Kimerling, T.A. O'Neil, M.M. Shaughnessy, E.P. Gaines, and M.M.P. Huso. 1997. Atlas of Oregon wildlife. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.